



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,542	01/21/2004	Hiroshi Ando	Q79441	8642

23373 7590 02/01/2007  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER
----------

LIANG, REGINA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2629

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/01/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/760,542	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ANDO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Regina Liang	<b>Art Unit</b> 2629	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/11/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is responsive to amendment filed 12/11/06. Claims 1 and 4 are pending in the application.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hideo (JP 2003015623) in view of Minoru (JP 10-124003).

As to claim 1, Fig. 1 of Hideo discloses a multi-display video display system including a plurality of displays (30) and video signal processing units (10, 20) respectively associated with the displays, a single image being displayed by using the displays ([0001] of the English translation), wherein each of the video signal processing units (10, 20) comprises:

a generation section (enlarge display signal generation section 12) which receives a video signal of a same original image, and generates an enlarged display signal ([0007], [0015], [0018] of the translation);

an average luminance level acquisition section (11) which receives the enlarged video signal of the same original image, and which acquires average luminance levels respectively of the video signals ([0021] of the translation);

Art Unit: 2629

an average luminance level setting section (13, 21-23), which selects a luminance level among the average luminance levels, supply the luminance level to the displays, respectively ([0022]-[0024] of the translation),

wherein each of the displays comprises a control device (24) which controls display brightness on the basis of the brightness level ([0025] of the translation).

Hideo does not explicitly disclose the generation section divides the video signal thereby generating a division display signal. Hideo also does not disclose the luminance level setting section for selecting a maximum level and supplying the maximum level to the display. However, Minoru is cited to teach a multi-screen plasma display device similar to Hideo. Hideo teaches a generation section (enlarging/dividing section 2) for enlarging and dividing the input video signal for the multi-screen plasma display device (see the abstract of Minoru). Minoru also teaches to select a maximum value of APL as the control signal to control the display unit (the abstract of Minoru). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify system of Hideo to have an enlarging/dividing section for dividing the video signal thereby generating a division display signal and to select a maximum value of APL as taught by Minoru so as "to display a picture with the maximum brightness and to perform display in which brightness between each screen is even in multi-screen display" (the abstract of Minoru).

Claim 4 is a method claim corresponding to the above apparatus claim 1, is rejected for the same reasons as stated above since such method "steps" are clearly read on by the corresponding "means".

Art Unit: 2629

*Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

*Conclusion*

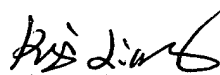
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fjuita et al (US 2003/0122744) teaches an average luminance level control circuit for selecting a maximum level of APL.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Regina Liang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7693. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on (571) 272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Regina Liang  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2674

1/25/07